

Application No.: 10/073,614  
Amendment Dated: December 22, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of: November 4, 2004

### REMARKS

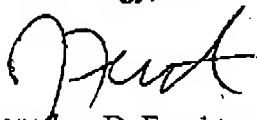
Applicants appreciate the Examiner acknowledgement of allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include aspects of claims 8-10 acknowledged as containing allowable subject matter, thereby placing claims 1-7 in condition for allowance. Applicants have similarly amended claim 30 to include aspects of claims 31 and 36 acknowledged as containing allowable subject matter, thereby placing claims 30, 33-35, and 37 in condition for allowance.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time or payment of fee, Applicants hereby petition therefore and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 50-2779, ZIMMER TECHNOLOGY, INC.

Respectfully submitted,  
Zimmer Technology, Inc.

By

  
Jonathan D. Feuchtwang  
Registration No. 41,017

December 22, 2004  
150 N. Wacker Dr., Suite 1200  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
Telephone: (312) 372-2859  
Facsimile: (312) 372-2906  
[jonathan.feuchtwang@zimmer.com](mailto:jonathan.feuchtwang@zimmer.com)  
Customer No. 37235

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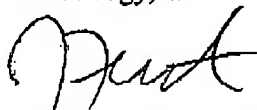
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